

**2016 NEPSR  
Pipeline Safety Seminar  
South Portland, Maine  
October 20, 2016**

Maine

Gas Safety and Damage  
Prevention Programs

Maine Public Utilities Commission



# Pipeline Safety & Damage Prevention Programs

Consumer Assistance and Safety Division

Derek Davidson - Director



# Program Personnel

- Pipeline Safety
  - Nathan Dore - Inspector
  - Sean Watson - Inspector
  - Gary Kenny – Program Manager
  - Tammy Chamberlain – Administration
- Damage Prevention
  - Rick LeClair - Investigator
  - Barry Truman – Investigator
  - Tammy Chamberlain – Administration
- Legal
  - Jordan (Jody) McColman - Staff Attorney for Natural Gas Safety, LPG Safety, and Damage Prevention



# Intrastate Pipeline Facilities Under MPUC Safety Jurisdiction

**As of December 31, 2015**

- Transmission Pipelines: 84 miles (four pipelines)
- Distribution Pipelines: 1,171 (four operators)
- Number of services: 34,002
- LNG: One Satellite Facility
- LPG Facilities: 715+/- (31 operators)
- CNG Facility: One Facility



# Distribution Main Materials

- Plastic: 897 mi 76.7%
- Protected Steel: 208 mi 17.8%
- Cast Iron: 45 mi 3.8%
- Unprotected Steel: 20 mi 1.7%

Cast Iron and Unprotected Steel  
Replacement to be Complete in 2024.  
Approx. 7 miles retired in 2015.





# Inspections

- 254 Inspection Person Days in 2015
- 2016 and 2017 Focus
  - Transmission pipeline record review.
  - Greater emphasis on the OQ inspections of O&M tasks.
  - Greater emphasis on the inspection of O&M records.
  - Ongoing review of LPG O&M Procedures
  - Five year cycle for LPG system inspections



# Enforcement Statistics 2015

- Civil Penalties Issued: \$24,750
  - LPG DIMP deficiencies: \$1,000
  - LPG DIMP deficiencies: \$1,250
  - LPG facility deficiencies: \$8,000
  - Inadequate cover (Maine rule): \$1,000
  - Inadequate separation (Maine rule): \$1,000
  - Inadequate leak surveys (Maine rule): \$5,000
  - Inadequate valve maintenance: \$7,500



# Enforcement Statistics 2015

## (Continued)

- Civil Penalties Collected: \$113,500
  - Failure to locate other utilities when using HDD: \$100,000 (2014) Reduced from \$150,000
  - LPG DIMP deficiencies: \$1,000 (2015)
  - Inadequate leak surveys: \$5,000 (2015)
  - Inadequate valve maintenance: \$7,500 (2015)
- Civil Penalties Pending from 2014: \$50,000
  - Failure to follow electrofusion procedures: \$30,000
  - Failure to follow butt fusion procedures: \$20,000

Both NOPVs were to the same Operator and were kept open due to subsequently discovered fusion Issues.





# Enforcement Statistics 2016 to Date

- Civil Penalties Issued: \$258,000
  - Failure to locate other utilities when using HDD: \$250,000 (Maine Rule)
  - Inadequate OQ when using specialized tapping equipment: \$5,000
  - Inadequate OQ when conducting station maintenance: \$3,000



# Enforcement Statistics 2016 to Date (Continued)

- Civil Penalties Collected: \$310,000
  - All 2016 2016 assessed penalties.
  - \$50,000 carried over from 2014
    - The replacement of several hundred electrofusion tees and couplings were associated with these penalties
  - \$2,000 carried over from 2015



# Top Enforcement Issues 2015 and 2016 To Date

- Lack of Qualification Documentation
- Failure to Follow Procedures
  - Pipe joining
  - Depth of cover (Maine Rule violations)
- Numerous NFPA 58 Violations (LPG Systems)
- HDD Cross Bores



# Plastic Pipe Joining

- It has been observed that the joiner sometimes initials the joint for himself and the inspector.
- **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!**



# HDD Cross Bore





# Pipe Joining Procedures



**Scratches in  
Fusion zone**

# Damage Prevention Program

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Total Locate Requests</b> | <b>Total Incidents (May not Include Damage)</b> | <b>Total Incidents per 1,000 Locates</b> | <b>Gas Locate Requests</b> | <b>Gas Damages</b> | <b>Gas Damages per 1,000 Locates</b> | <b>Total Penalties Collected</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>2009</b> | <b>55,434</b>                | <b>315</b>                                      | <b>5.68</b>                              | <b>21,568</b>              | <b>44</b>          | <b>2.04</b>                          | <b>\$230,000</b>                 |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>60,206</b>                | <b>446</b>                                      | <b>7.41</b>                              | <b>15,586</b>              | <b>24</b>          | <b>1.54</b>                          | <b>\$230,650</b>                 |
| <b>2011</b> | <b>60,108</b>                | <b>446</b>                                      | <b>7.42</b>                              | <b>16,158</b>              | <b>33</b>          | <b>2.04</b>                          | <b>\$181,350</b>                 |
| <b>2012</b> | <b>60,420</b>                | <b>421</b>                                      | <b>6.97</b>                              | <b>17,481</b>              | <b>31</b>          | <b>1.77</b>                          | <b>\$180,600</b>                 |
| <b>2013</b> | <b>65,250</b>                | <b>452</b>                                      | <b>6.93</b>                              | <b>19,735</b>              | <b>33</b>          | <b>1.67</b>                          | <b>\$151,750</b>                 |
| <b>2014</b> | <b>63,843</b>                | <b>419</b>                                      | <b>6.56</b>                              | <b>25,281</b>              | <b>39</b>          | <b>1.54</b>                          | <b>\$118,850</b>                 |
| <b>2015</b> | <b>66,417</b>                | <b>387</b>                                      | <b>5.83</b>                              | <b>24,731</b>              | <b>46</b>          | <b>1.86</b>                          | <b>\$119,500</b>                 |

# **Damage Prevention Program (continued)**

**For 2016 to date, there appears to be an increase in the amount of damages to gas facilities.**



# Incidents

**We've been very fortunate to have  
another incident free year.**



# 2016 & 2017 Program Goals

- Increased utilization of PHMSA's Inspection Assistant.
- Implementation of the Spotter software for non IA inspections (LPG & Construction).
- Improve the tracking of Compliance Actions and Inspection Activities.





# Rulemaking

- Chapter 420 Revisions – Effective last September and discussed at last year's seminar
- Chapter 421 – We plan to open the rulemaking process sometime within the next year. The primary focus will be regarding the definition of a Public Place.
  - We're currently reviewing items/issues that may warrant interpretations of Part 192 from PHMSA. We plan to fully involve the Propane Operators in the drafting of any interpretation requests.

# Questions or Comments?

# Thank You!

